

Applicant Name Geraldine, Town of
Project Name Moonlight Meadow Test Hole Abandonment

Project Abstract

The Town of Geraldine is applying for this grant seeking funds to plug and abandon the well known as the Moonlight Meadow Well that was damaged on or around May 11, 2004. There is evidence that at least three separate aquifers were opened up and have been mixing ever since. There is at least 70 feet of drill stem, drill bit, and drill collar lost and/or lodged in the bore hole that has proven to be unrecoverable by the driller.

The town's goal for this project is to attempt to mitigate the continuing damage to state waters. It is only a matter of time before this water starts showing up in some surrounding wells. The Town of Geraldine is probably first in line because of the proximity of its municipal wells. There are also a number of stock water wells in the vicinity that could be affected by the toxic levels of iron present in one of the aquifers. Since the well has unrecoverable or lost drilling tools lodged in it, there is no other alternative but plugging and abandonment of this test well, per the Montana Code Annotated (MCA). The intention of the project is to seal off the intermingling of the aquifers and plug the damaged hole in the most economical method.

The Town of Geraldine will be in charge of the project.

The legal description of the site is SE 1/4 of Section 31 township 21N Range 12E the SE1/4 of SE 1/4 in Chouteau County. The damaged well sits southwest of the Town of Geraldine and is tucked in a valley east of what is commonly known in the area as Coffin Butte. The town's engineer estimates the project will take a month to complete.